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ABSTRACT

In the past 25 years, there has been an explosion in research on the development of perception. The research has produced discoveries at multiple levels: ecological analyses, models of representation and process, and improved understanding of biological mechanisms. This book provides a comprehensive treatment of infant perception, bringing together work at these multiple levels to provide a new picture of perception's origins. The emphasis is on perceptual knowledge: How one comes to perceive the world; what information, processes, and mechanisms produce this knowledge; and how perceptual processes change over time. The work shows that the traditional constructivist view, emphasizing the construction of perceptual reality through extended learning, has been disconfirmed by experimental data in many domains, and that an ecological view, emphasizing the role of evolution in preparing infants to perceive, provides a better overall account, but that both innate foundations and learning contribute to perceptual development. The 12 chapters cover: (1) views of perception and perceptual development; (2) physiological and sensory foundations of perceptual development; (3) space perception; (4) pattern perception; (5) object perception; (6) motion and event perception; (7) intermodal perception; (8) auditory perception; (9) perception and action; (10) perceptual foundations of social development; (11) perceptual foundations of cognitive development; and (12) trends and themes in perceptual development. A discussion of origins and concepts of the habituation and recovery method is appended. Contains nearly 800 references. (HTH)

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